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April 22, 2003

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications & Energy
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
One South Station, Second Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Re: D.T.E. 03-24 – Notice of Rulemaking

Dear Ms. Cottrell:

Verizon Massachusetts (“Verzion MA”) files these comments regarding the Department’s proposed rules to establish a funding mechanism for wireline Enhanced 911 (“E911”) services, relay services for TDD/TTY users, and equipment distribution program for individuals with disabilities. Currently, those programs are funded by directory assistance charges.

The Department’s proposed rules – as set forth in its *Notice of Rulemaking* issued March 13, 2003, in this proceeding – were promulgated to implement the terms of the Commonwealth’s Acts of 2002, c. 239. *Notice*, at 1. Verizon MA supports those draft rules with only one minor modification. Verizon MA recommends that Section 16.05(3) be modified, in pertinent part, as follows: “The first report on August 1, 2002, will cover the *period ending December 31, 2002.*” That modification complies fully with Chapter 291, Section 1 of the Acts of 2002, which requires that the Department determine any pre-existing deficit as of December 31, 2002. It also reflects Section 16.01(1) of the Department’s proposed rules, which is consistent with applicable law.

Very truly yours,

Barbara Anne Sousa

cc: Joan Foster Evans, Esquire, Hearing Officer
Michael Isenberg, Esquire, Director – Telecommunications Division
Paul J. Fahey, Executive Director, SETB